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REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Objections to the specification

The amendment filed 10/28/2005 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 as introducing new matter into the disclosure. In particular, the Examiner stated that 'The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:

"a communication comprising a group key for a multicast group and an authentication key for use in authenticating multicast membership requests by a host device..." In the interest of expediting allowance of the instant application, Applicants have canceled claim 66, but note support for the claimed elements can be found at pages 8 to 9 and Figure 8 of applicants' specification. However, because the claim has been withdrawn, applicant respectfully submits the objection is moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-12, 18-36 and 48-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ballardie (Network Working Group, University College of London, May 1996). Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the interest of expediting issue of the application, applicants have amended each independent claim to include limitations indicated as allowable by the Examiner. For example,

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claim 1 has been amended to include the claim 2 limitations of "...a key server for authenticating the host device and generating the authentication key for the host device..." Independent claims 18, 20 and 22 have been amended to include limitations similar to "... obtaining an authentication key associated with a host device from a key server following authentication of the host device by the key server..." Independent claims 26, 29 and 32 have been amended to recite "... , the authentication key being received by the host device following authentication of the host device by a key server and forwarded in the join request from the host device..." Independent claims 48, 53 and 58 have been amended to recite limitations similar to "..., the authentication key being received by the host device following authentication of the host device by a key server and forwarded in a join request forwarded from host device to the designated routing device..."

Accordingly, for at least the reason that the claims have all been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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Conclusion:

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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